

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMISSION
AUGUST 18, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

Present: Beverly Calender-Anderson, Sheldon Gellar, and William Vance, Jr. **Staff:** Craig Brenner, Liaison, and Lee Bowlen, Community and Family Resources Department. **Guests:** Sue Swaney and Jeong Bangsup.

Approval of Minutes: No official business was conducted, as a quorum of members was not present.

Treasurer's Report: Since the July 20, 2005 meeting the commission had two expenditures: a grant of \$200 to the Heritage Project and payment for an ad in the Bloomington Black Business and Professional Association directory, \$75. Total funds available = \$780.37.

Old Business:

Year-round Commission Activities

Sheldon Gellar reported that he, Frank Motley, and Craig met to plan the November event on the topic "Religion and Politics." The event will take place on Thursday, November 10th, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The committee discussed possible names for the event and shared their ideas with Dan Conkle of the IU Law Faculty, arriving at the working title "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission Presents: What Would Dr. King Do on the Role of Religion (Conservative and Progressive) in American Politics and Public Life." Dan Conkle will make a presentation on this topic and serve as moderator. The commission suggested names of others to serve on the panel representing various perspectives. Sheldon and Craig will share these names with Frank and narrow the list.

2006 Celebration

Sue Swaney discussed possibilities for additional music. She has spoken with Melonee Burnim about presenting a variety of music involving multiple groups and ages. Sue suggested several options: creation of a large community chorus, perhaps using a song from the Civil Rights Movement and arranging it for music teachers and students in the public schools and community groups, filling the stage with singers; a sing along; a children's choir conducted by Jill Wagener or Sarah Stevens; and the International Choir (Sue is leading it this year). Some of these options might require altering the stage to accommodate more people. The IU African American Choral Ensemble under Dr. Mumford is also part of the program, and Sue and Melonee will need to coordinate with Dr. Mumford. Sue also suggested contacting Steve Krahnke, IU Radio-Television Services, regarding stage design. Sue will continue to work with Melonee Burnim.

New Business

Request for Funding – Monroe County Branch, NAACP

The group discussed the request for funding but could not act due to lack of a quorum. Beverly asked Craig to send an e-mail to the members of the commission asking their opinion of the request.

Since the commission is receiving requests for funds but has no guaranteed sources of income, Beverly asked Craig to draft guidelines for responding to requests for funding based upon those developed and used by the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Women. Craig will send those first to Beverly and then to the group.

Liaison Report

NAACP – William Vance reported the NAACP Freedom Banquet will be held on October 15 at Terry's Banquet and Catering. He will discuss supporting the commission's request for financial support with the NAACP Executive Board.

Additional Discussion

The Bloomington Multicultural Festival will take place on September 25th from Noon – 5 p.m. on the Courthouse Square. Lee will register the commission, and we will share a booth with the City of Bloomington Commission on the Status of Black Males. The cost is \$15. Craig will ask Pete Giordano if the Community and Family Resources Department can pay. Craig will send an e-mail to members of the commission asking if they want to take turns staffing the booth.

Guest Jeong Bangsup of South Korea introduced himself. He hopes to be involved in our activities.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21 at 4:00 p.m. in the McCloskey Conference Room #135 at City Hall.

Submitted by Craig Brenner